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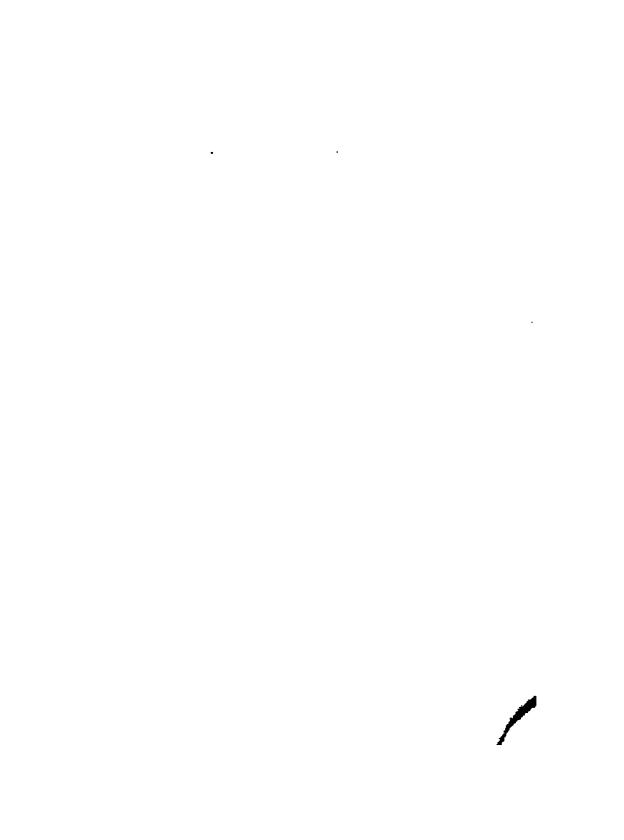
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PNEUMA,

OR

THE WANDERING SOUL:

A Parable

IN RHYME AND OUTLINE.

ВY

THE REV. W. CALVERT, M.A.

MINOR CANON OF ST. PAUL'S.

LONDON:
LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, AND LONGMANS.
1856.

280. p. 15.



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Printed by Spottiswoods & Co.
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TO THE REVEREND

SIR WILLIAM LIONEL DARELL, BART.,

This Mork is dedicated,

AS A MEMORIAL OF MUCH KINDNESS EXPERIENCED DURING

AN INTIMACY OF MANY YEARS BY HIS

AFFECTIONATE FRIEND

THE AUTHOR.

• ×

ILLUSTRATIONS,

DESIGNED AND ETCHED BY THE AUTHOR.

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ARGUMENT.

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Pneuma (πνεῦμα, spirit), the youthful daughter of Æon (αἰών, eternity) the King of Ouran (ουρανός, heaven), is placed with her imbecile and distorted foster-brother Sarx (πάρξ, flesh) under the guardianship of the Lady Ecclesia (ἐκκλησία, the church). In an evil hour they are inveigled away by Phosphor (φωσφόρες, Lucifer), a rebellious vassal of King Æon, and carried off into his mountain haunts. Thence they are rescued by the Prince, the brother of Pneuma, and through many dangers and difficulties effect their return. In conclusion, Pneuma is summoned to her father's court in Castle-Ouran, leaving Sarx, until, released from the spell which has bound him and endowed with beauty and intellect, he shall be called to rejoin her beside King Æon's throne.

Beneath the surface of the river
Of the Palpable and Seeming,
An inner current runneth ever,
With life and joy and beauty teeming.
But only he, whose earnest eyes
Fathom those waters as they flow,
Discerns the glimmering mysteries
Half hidden in the depths below.

Enshrined within the tiny flowers
That grow beside the path of life,
Are simples blest with healing powers,
And germs with sweetest odours rife.
But he alone that, stooping low,
Will stay with curious hand to cull,
Can all the many virtues know
That dignify the beautiful.

And so the heart, intently gleaning
O'er fields of legendary lore,
May light upon a holier meaning,
A meaning never found before:
Behind the shadowy pageantry,
Which ancient Minstrel-Fancy drew,
In bright reality may see
The Good, the Lovely, and the True.

PNEUMA,

OF

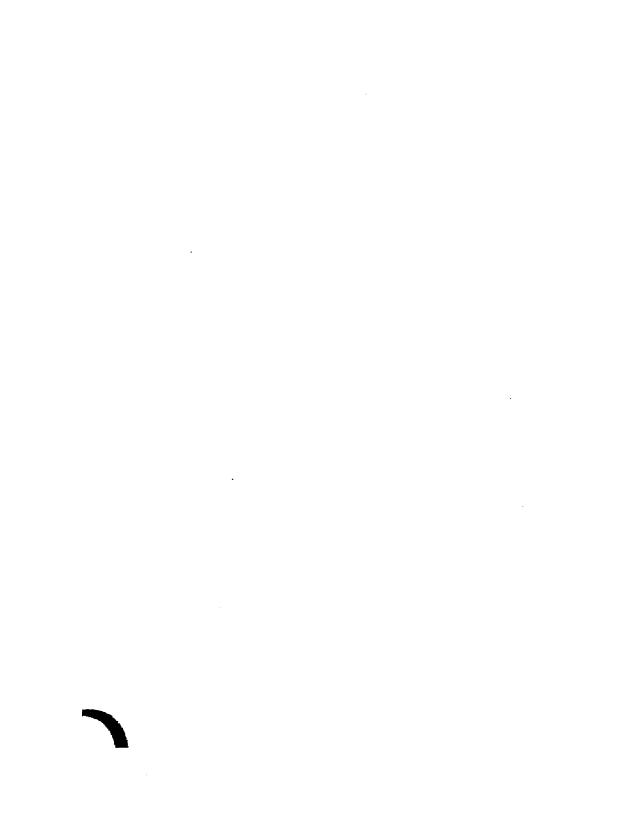
THE WANDERING SOUL.

PART I.





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PNEUMA,

OR

THE WANDERING SOUL.

PART I.

A HUNDRED towers, reared on high,
Stand forth against the calm blue sky;
A hundred banners, blazonëd
With bearings haught, wave overhead
On Castle-Ouran's massive walls
That crest the mountain steeps;
Where, in his ancient royal halls,
High court King Æon keeps.

The Sovereign of the universe reigneth in the citadel of heaven.





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High court King Æon keepeth there
With pomp and minstrelsy;
Of all that land, so wide and fair,
Liege lord and prince is he.
And while the escutcheoned roof is ringing
With harp and voice of sweet bards singing,
From gilded gallery and dais,
To courtly crowds their monarch's praise,
In garb of state the warders wait
By day, by night, before the gate,
And ne'er is closed the wicket door
Against the vassal, rich or poor,
Who craves his lowly suit to bring
Before the throne of Ouran's king.

He heareth the prayers of His people

A little lower than the Angels is the Spirit of the Christian in a state of probation. Through the gorgeous oriel now
The sun shines in on jewelled brow,
On broidered robe, and lordly fur,
Rich cloth of gold, and miniver,
And all the bright and high-born throng
That girdles round King Æon's throne;
But never sees those forms among,
Tho' fair they be, a fairer one

Than hers who, in the vale beneath, Drinking the breeze's balmy breath, In sight of those proud towers, strays Thro' woodland glades and heathy ways. She seemed indeed to mortal sight A thing made up of youth and light, Save for a chain of gold, around The maiden's marble temples bound, In the joyous sunshine glowing, Her yellow tresses free were flowing. On her high and placid brow A crosslet shone of rubies bright; And purer than the drifted snow Her silken robe of dazzling white: The gem on Pneuma's forehead worn Proclaims her for a princess born; And who that ever chanced to see That look of high serenity, The lofty mien, the softened fire, That lit those eyes whene'er she smiled, But knew King Æon was the sire Of that fair-haired and beauteous child!

She weareth the badge of Baptism, and showeth in her nature her divine origin. The Soul is associated with the Flesh, debased and degraded from its first estate.

But not without a vassal guide The maiden wandered; by her side A dwarfish form, in quaint array, With eager footsteps urged his way. In years he was of Pneuma's age, Her foster brother and her page, Who, as his weeping mother said, Was in her first-born's cradle laid By envious fairies, on the day They stole her lovelier babe away. Small doubt but that the tale was true; For as the infant older grew, In outward form uncouth and lame, His fancy more distort became; And little pleased the wilful child But silly sports and rovings wild. Beside the brook he loved to lie And count the bubbles floating by, Or eagerly to chase and seize The thistle-down upon the breeze; And this was all his boast, — he knew Where gayest weeds and wild flowers grew, From highest bough the nest he bore; And filched the squirrel's hidden store.

The desires of the Flesh are trifling and unprofitable. And thus he grew, a wayward boy,
With mischief for his dearest joy.
Still Pneuma loved poor Sarx, and he,
Her playfellow from infancy,
Was ever near the royal maid,
Seldom her wishes disobeyed,
And, daft to all the world beside,
To her nor rudeness showed, nor pride.

The Soul hath power over the Flesh.

Beneath a noble matron's sway

Their early years had passed away:

An ancient Lady wise and good.

Her dwelling 'neath the shadow stood

Of that high rock, whose topmost ground

With Castle-Ouran's towers was crowned.

It rose, a venerable pile,

With cloister, tower, and fretted aisle;

Whence on the 'nighted traveller's ear

Came solemn music rich and clear.

And ever, thro' the livelong day,

Within the mossy porch, there lay

Many a wanderer travel-wearied:

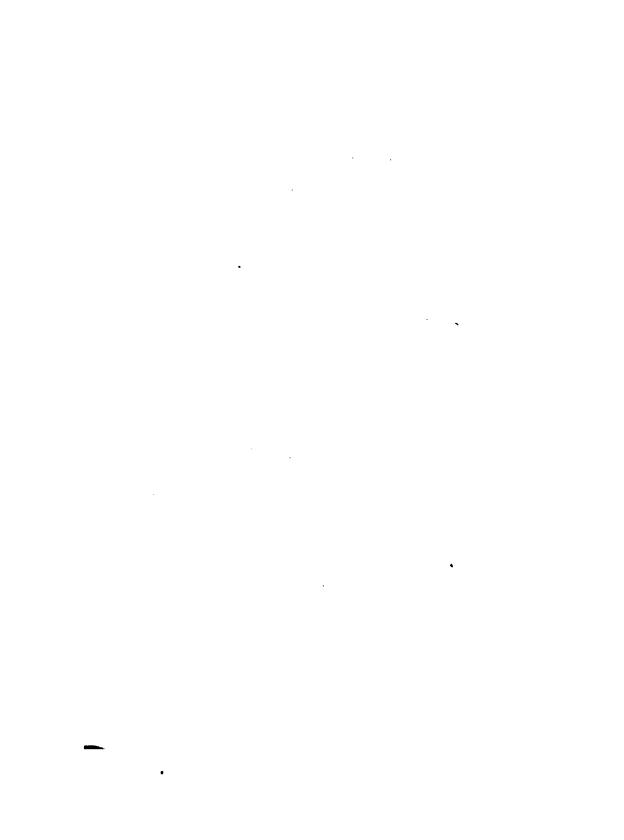
To that sacred shelter crept

They dwell together under the guardianship of the Church.

The Soul partaketh of the ordinances and offices of the Church.

Widows, whose dead joys lay buried
In the graves where loved ones slept;
Young orphans brought their sorrows there,
And child-reft crones with silvery hair;
The sick, the poor, and desolate,
All crowded to that well-known gate.
And thence anon the Ancient Dame
With Pneuma, and her maidens, came;
With courtesie and welcome sweet
She bade the hungry come and eat;
She cheered the mourner's aching breast;
The sick man's wounds with balsams dressed;
Clad in warm weeds the pilgrim gray,
And kissed the orphan's tears away.

This pious, hospitable dome
Was Pneuma's first and only home.
And here it was King Æon's will
The child he loved should dwell, until,
In royal state to Ouran brought,
She came to grace her Father's court.







Meanwhile, to please the maiden mild, He left that wayward, gamesome, wild, Half-witted urchin there, that he Her little squire and friend should be. The Flesh ministereth to the Soul.

How many links of love there are
'Twixt beings of unequal mould,
And natures all dissimilar!

The vile dross clasps the precious gold;
The ever-beating waves embrace
The stolid rock's unmoving base;
And fresh-born ivy tendrils cling
To the gray ruin mouldering;
Around the darkest clouds will play
The summer lightning's brightest ray;
And on the peaks of mountain snow
The warmest tints of sunset glow.

And so 'twas not unlovingly Their early childhood glided by.

The Flesh bringeth memory and

the senses for the use of the Soul.

Thus, side by side, the pair were seen, And none had guessed the one had been Of royal birth and heritage, The other but her moonling page. Whene'er in serious hours she sought To con the lines of ancient lore, 'Twas Sarx the ponderous volume brought, 'Twas Sarx her silver lute that bore; And oft he loved, beside her seated, To list each word those lips repeated, When in some melting melody Her thrilling voice rang sweet and high. And ever at such moments came, O'er his rapt heart, a happier frame, A radiant light, that, lingering, shone When the blest hour itself was gone; Like western skies in glory drest After the sun hath sunk to rest, Leaving its warm and mellow ray To gild the evening's sombre gray.

The Flesh controlled and refined by the supremacy of the Soul.

PART II.

"Where lives the man that hath not tried How mirth can into folly glide, And folly into sin!"

SCOTT.

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PART II.

How joyously the morning breeze Fresh fragrance from the blossoms shook! The sun-glance through the quivering trees Was dancing on the pebbled brook. Beside the ford the drowsy herd With drooping heads together stood, And rose the voice of bee and bird From cowslip bank and hazel wood. 'Twas then that Pneuma and her page, Thro' the laughing spring-tide weather, Rambled, hand in hand, together, Upon a sportive pilgrimage; Until, at length, their footsteps gain The outward bound of that demesne Whose smiling meads and groves embrace That ancient lady's dwelling place. There, on a hillock's grassy crown, The gentle pair besate them down;

In the time of prosperity the Soul seeth no danyer. For dawn had called them forth a-maying, And ever since had they been straying; And, merrily their garlands weaving, Little recked how they were leaving, Far and farther still behind. That cloistered home, whose time-gray tower Sent forth its chimes upon the wind, As if to bid them call to mind The homeward path and passing hour.

There sate they, and a velvet bank

On a daisy-broidered seat The Soul, led on by the Flesh, approacheth the confines

of innocence.

Sloped gently downwards at their feet To where, midst reeds and herbage rank, A streamlet broad but shallow wound The rugged ground Its sullen course. Beyond seemed bladeless all and bare, Save that, in hollows here and there, In tangled clumps, together grew Star-flowered hemlock, and the buglos blue, Where, 'neath rank covert of the poisonous weed, The spitting-lizard and black-snake might breed, And midst the deadly night-shade, gaudy red, Fluttered and waved the poppy's flaunting head.

There stud the plain, but far apart and few, The blackthorn bushlet, and the stunted yew; While, in the gray far-off, the bleak hills rise With dark sharp outlines tost towards the skies.

To any eyes that barren scene
Had dreary and repugnant been;
But why as Pneuma looks thereon
Is the colour from her soft lips gone?
Why doth the warm blood leave her cheeks,
As Pneuma trembling starts and speaks?

The Soul is startled at the first sight of sin.

- "And list to me," the Princess said,
- "Too far have our heedless footsteps strayed;
 - "Yes, listen, brother mine, to me, -
 - "The gloomy land we yonder see
 - " Is a land of magic and glamourie.
- "Oft hath the Dame Ecclesia told
- "Of that wily traitor and rebel bold,
- "Earl Phosphor, how, in the long ago,
- "He was my father's direst foe,
- " And how he headed a felon band
- "Of the discontents of Ouran's land,

She recounteth the apostasy of the Spirit of Evil,

- "And thought, in the proud dark heart of his own,
- "To drive King Æon from his throne.
- "But vanquished in the field was he
- "With all his recreant chivalry,
- " And flying for his forfeit life,
- "He dared no more in open strife,
- "But from the royal court exiled,
- "A desert region sought, and wild;
- "And there, with his confederates lurking
- "In mountain hold and fastness, he
 - "Still finds a dark revenge in working,
- "With magic and deep witcherie,
 - "Many a fell and fearful spell
- "That mortal lips might never tell;
- "With base enchantment, and vile charm,
- "Plotting to deceive and harm
- " Each trusting heart that hath retained
- "Its truth and loyalty unstained.
- "Those cold bare hills, I ween, must be
- "The dwelling of his villany.
- "So far from home, such danger nigh-
- "Ah! wherefore linger? up and fly!"

and his enmity against the righteous.

She rose to quit her resting place,
Pale terror blanched her tearful face,
Yet through her tears right glad was she
Her Father's lordly towers to see.
Though in the distance dim was lost
Each banner by the breezes tost,
Tho' now no more the echoes float
Of warder's cry and bugle note,
An easy task it seemed again
To trace their footsteps on the plain,
And reach their home's still open door,
Long ere the vesper hour was o'er.

The Soul, presuming upon her Christian privileges,

Still Sarx no word replieth he,

But from her gentle side is gone,

And, in his prankish roguery,

Beside the streamlet stands alone;

And up the farther bank he gazes,

And claps in giddy joy his hands,

And now his plumëd cap he raises,

And points, and beckons as he stands.

is seduced by the Flesh to gaze upon the enticements of sin. ,



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Thro' fair tresses streaming, The vision entrancing Chased away from her breast Every shadow of dread, And down by the bank Of that dark stream she sped. There, once more side by side, She and Sarx onward glide, And still gazing and still listening, With strained eyes wildly glistening, Look on that scene of rustic glee, And deem the merry groups they see, Are such as dwell. So poets tell, In wood and fell. And flowery dell, Of fairy-peopled Arcadie. As merrily the dance goes round, Ever and anon, the sound Of wild melodious chorus floats: And then, with sweet heart-thrilling notes, One voice trolled forth the burden clear That fell on Pneuma's spell-bound ear.

The Soul, gazing thereon, assimilates her desires to those of the Flesh.

The children of this world look only for present enjoyment.

- "Let the sons of care and toil
- "Sail the deep, and plough the soil,
- "Thro' the weary night hours o'er
- "Tomes of crabbëd learning pore,
- "Spend to-day in strife or sorrow,
- "Looking ever for to-morrow-
- "We were never meant to be
- "Slaves of labour or of thought;
- "Life with us is jollity,
 - "Every hour brings its sport.
- "What cowards dread we never fear,
- " Nor care for aught that fools revere;
- "Nought reck we what the wise may know,
- "But prudence to the winds we throw;
- "Dull sober sense was never made
- " For those that live in wild wood glade;
- "Not for merry hearts and free,
- " Not for you, and not for me."

There's a secret charm in the strain they sing To catch the hearts of the listening;

There's a poison in the fumes that steam From the feetid face of that sluggish stream,

To bewilder the brain, and cloud the eyes,

Till the air seems filled with phantasies;—

The contagiousness of worldly folly.

And never a thought has the maiden fair Of aught but the gay forms dancing there, And fondly her young heart longs to be In the midst of that merry company.

But who doth ride from the greenwood side? With him are coursers twain; One steed of jet doth he bestride, One leads he by the rein. His velvet surcoat and his vest Are lined with sable furs, A broidered baldrick girds his breast, And golden are his spurs. And he doth wear upon his head A chaperon of ruby red, Beset with jewels rare, And down the farther bank he sped, With a lofty lordly air. His manhood's prime had passed away, And hair and beard were tinged with gray; Yet, though their youthful fire was gone, Within his glowing eyes there shone

The Spirit of Evil approacheth the Soul in her hour of temptation.

Though well he knew that hate and pride

Beneath a courteous smile to hide. And never in those eyes I ween

A light, that told there lingered still Within that breast the headstrong will, The workings, wild and passionate, Of cank'ring pride and deadly hate;

Had sweeter, milder smile been seen, Nor from those lips had e'er been heard In gentler tones each honied word, By his flat-Than when his bridle rein he drew

tering deceits he winneth over the Flesh.

Beside the spot where stood those two Young wanderers; then approaching nigh, Bowed low with feigned humility; And stooping down to Sarx he plies His charmed ear with flatteries. He whispers how, beyond that stream, Are brighter scenes than heart could dream; He tells him how the young and fair Are sure of joyous welcome there; How o'er those flower-sprinkled plains Bright, deathless summer always reigns;



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And, midst their never leafless bowers,
The happy shepherd wastes his hours.
Then shows him how, at his command
And service, those proud palfreys stand
To bear them to the farther side,
Across the streamlet's shallow tide;
And much he hoped, the stranger said,
The gentle youth and royal maid
Would, with their presence, deign at least
To dignify this rustic feast.

The music of that wily tongue,

The lustre of those eyes,

Around the silly wight have flung

Their potent sorceries.

Through the stream the steeds have waded,

And reached the spot where Pneuma stands,

And, half compelled and half persuaded,

She clasps the flatterer's offered hands.

He stoops and draws her to his breast,

Then round he whirls his fiery beast;

Strikes with the spur each shining flank,

And guides him towards the farther bank.

The Spirit
of Evil
beareth off
the Soul by
force of
pride, while
the Flesh is
carried away
by lust.



And Sarx for not a moment halts,

But he hath ta'en

The free steed's rein,

And, with a bound,

From off the ground

Into the empty saddle vaults.

The Soul and the Flesh are hurried forward into the regions of sin. And, through the flood and through the mire,
Where the waters are rising higher and higher,
Side by side they breast the tide,
That hath swollen to a river deep and wide;
But, long before that bank he gained,
Pneuma's white robes, all bestained,
Round her cold and shivering
Limbs, in dripping folds must cling;
And, o'er the crosslet on her brow,
Her dank and matted locks hang low.
Scarce had they reached the farther side
When, with sudden bound and stride,
Those coursers twain,
With streaming mane,
With fiery glare, and nostrils wide,

Every swelling muscle straining, The summit of the steep bank gaining, Headlong urged their furious way Where the open country lay. Over waste and moorland heath, Over chasms, where, deep beneath, Dark and turbid streams are flowing, Where the cold gray rocks are showing Mossless patches through the sward, Where the blasted yew is throwing Its rough and twisted limbs abroad; Through the rustling thicket low, Where the thorn and brushwood grow; By pit and precipice they dash, Close beside the crumbling brink, Onward where, with hollow plash, Their fetlocks in the quagmire sink: Earthly steeds might never tread Unscathed the paths o'er which they sped.

The stranger rides the foremost now, With Pneuma at his saddle bow; The heedlessness of a course of sinful folly. And Pneuma, all bewildered, lies
Within his stalwart arms supported.
Before her dazzled, half-closed eyes
A thousand dancing spectres sported;
Fair forms that melted into air,
Bright shapes, and colours ever blending:
But midst them all, beside her there,
Rides Sarx, all hot and eager bending
O'er his steed's enarchëd neck;

The false enticements of earthly temptation.

Airy phantoms, ever shifting,
In clouds athwart his vision drifting,
Their white ethereal arms extending,
Invite him on with smile and beck.
Loving and unearthly eyes
Gaze forth from the enchanted skies,
With that wild light that ever flashes
From under long and raven lashes,
Like darkling springs, by moonlight seen
In sea-washed cave or deep ravine;
And elfin forms, more lovely far
Than fairest mortal beauties are,
Spring up before him, offering
Every rare and costly thing:

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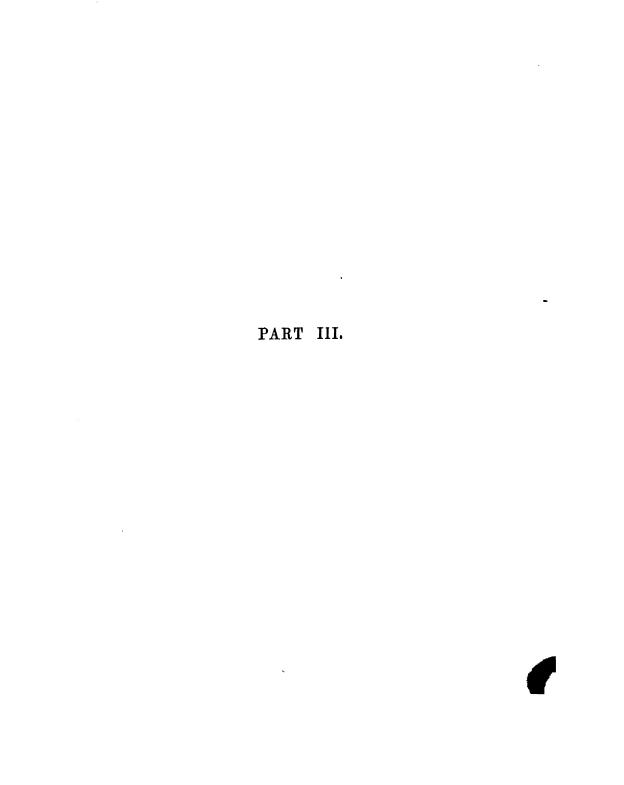


In their dreamy hands they hold Gems, and chains, and crowns of gold; Silken robes of gorgeous dyes, Baubles, plumes, and bravouries: All that e'er was said to be Hid in mountain, mine, and sea, Is offered to his longing gaze; And, on the breeze that rushes by, Come wafted spirit-chanted lays, And strains of magic minstrelsy. In vain he spreads his arms to clasp Each airy toy,—his empty grasp Falls short, and the still tempting prize Before the fond pursuer flies, And only grows distinct and bright To vanish from his baffled sight.

The Flesh graspeth at the things of time and sense.

Still, as Pneuma closely clings,
She sees these wild and shadowy things
Below, above, around them rise;
And in her spell-entrammelled eyes
They wear, all phantoms though they be,
The semblance of reality.

The Soul becomes dulled and deadened. They fade — then all is cold and dark
And drear as winter night; and hark!
How rings, beneath a cavern roof,
The echo of each clanging hoof;
Her brain whirls round, her life-blood freezes,
And torpor on her senses seizes.



" Mortals, whose pleasures are their only care,
First wish to be imposed on, and then are."

COWPER.

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PART 10

From when the weight produced knows

There when the weight produced to

Vice a teacher for a real

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And the serve of the all produced to

More again, as a real part of the suite.

The throbburg, vision-wildered brain

Returns to sentiem the again.

And no test Soui, her troubles eler,

Utilights to first the extremes to a more

The Preuma will a second second with the second second in Image C. Personal The song Sirel's early hymn to how,

To greet the brief of male globdowing ways.

As through the Lutther pairs they may be re-

Action of Maritim of the Schools when with the conAnd listen till the matin bell
Its tale of hope and joy should tell.
She wakes: — In revel wild and loud
Earl Phosphor feasts his rebel crowd;
And on her startled ears are ringing
Shrill and discordant voices, singing,
In boisterous chorus, full and high,
Their strains of ribald jollity.
And midst each lull, the groan, the word
Obscene, and muttered curse, is heard;
Whilst, ever and anon, again
Bursts forth that vain and idle strain.

- "What cowards dread we never fear,
- " Nor reverence what fools revere,
- " Nought reck we what the wise may know,
- "But prudence to the winds we throw;
- " Stiff rules, by sober souls obeyed,
- " For jovial hearts were never made;
- " Not for merry ones, and free,
- " Not for you, and not for me."

It is a lordly banquet room

The Palace of Error.

Through which that strange wild chorus rings; Along the roof the torch-light flings

A lurid glare;

And, pictured there,

Forms dim and visionary loom,

Downward gazing, as it were, Through a veil star-diap'rëd, Of moon-besilvered cloudlets, spread From arch to arch high overhead. Shadowy forms, that might express Wisdom, power, and loveliness,

Mingle in that mimic sky

With glittering star and galaxy;

While, with ceaseless variation,

Each refulgent constellation

Fades to shapes of mortal fashion,

Blends with scenes of human passion,

As if that cope were meant to show

A mirror to the crowd below.

And round about that lofty hall,

Encircling the topmost wall,

Was a deep entablature,

Where, in tracery obscure,

f Error.

The falsities of ancient mythologies.

False creeds supported by mighty but perverted minds.

Insculpt, there ran the old-world story
Of Hero life,
Of shame, and strife,
Of rapine, grief, and blood-bought glory.
Underneath that mythic frieze,
Gigantic Caryatides,
Ranged at stated intervals
Along the arras-curtained walls,
Seemed beneath the weight to tremble
On their crowned heads that pressed.
Arrayed they were in queenly vest,
And every one she did resemble
The maiden pale that, with hair dishevelled,
And eyes in wild bright lustre shining,
Sate at the board

On the breast of her traitor page reclining;
Whilst as loudly and madly he laughed and
revelled

Of that wizard lord,

As any among
That boisterous throng
That passed round the goblet and echoed the song.

And well may Pneuma's aching eyes
Turn towards those glowing tapestries
Around her hung. On every side,
In many a panel high and wide,
With gold and gaudy tissue wrought,
Had magic-working figures brought
Forth, to the gazer's charmëd sight,
Bright portraitures of false delight.

In the world
of the ungodly the
sins of men
are extenuated and
dressed in
alluring
shapes.

There, on the blood-becrimsoned tide,
In gilded pinnace side by side,
While ermined monarchs ply the oars,
And shouting nations line the shores,
Ambition, and his sister Pride,
In pomp triumphal onward glide.
On his plumed casque and diadem
Shone many a pearl and priceless gem,
And his dalmatic's purple flow
Reached his steel-buskined feet below.
While graspeth he, in either hand,
A laurel wreath and reeking brand,

And seems his haughty gaze to bend To where the distant hill-tops blend With the bright ether, as if seeking, Amidst the golden cloud-shores streaking The glowing west, some region new To war with, ravage, and subdue.

And there was False Love with her witcheries, Her panting bosom and impassioned eyes. Cushioned in roses, on the deck she lay

Of a gay barge by silver cygnets drawn, And from her ivory limbs, in wanton play,

The sportive zephyrs snatch the filmy lawn. Buoyant in air, the dimpled Cupids spread A silken awning o'er her languid head; Enraptured minstrels sing around her couch, And at her fair feet Wealth and Honour crouch.

There Avarice, no squalid miser, he Stands as a princely merchant on the quay Of some trade-famous city: round him lies, In heaped-up piles, bales of rich merchandise. Whilst with his well-filled girdle-pouch he plays, In earnest thought he sea-ward turns his gaze, Right glad to feel the chill but welcome gale That fills his home-returning galleon's sail. And, as he watches with exulting eye, Wrapt in his fur-lined damask robe, thereby Stands, all unpitied, shivering Poverty.

And there was Hatred: from the listed field
He rode a victor; on his blade and shield
Was blood—the blood of one in former days
His friend and comrade, but his rival since.
Proudly he rides beneath the admiring gaze
Of high-born dame, of prelate, peer, and prince;
And all around the ever fickle crowd
Toss up their caps, and shout their plaudits loud.

There too was Indolence: upon a green bank laid Of mossy turf with moon-wort interwove, Beneath the pearly-blossomed chesnut's shade, Supine he lists the breeze-stirred boughs above Fitfully mingling their leaf-whispers sweet
With the birds' noon-day song; whilst at his feet
A silver brook in sparkling ripples played,
And secretly from forth the neighbouring brake,
Stole down the sunny bank a venomed snake.

There Envy, sorry fiend that aye doth dog
The path of all that are or good or great,
Was borne along, a prosperous demagogue,
On ruffian shoulders, through the ruined gate
Of a mob-plundered palace; at his side
Did Slander sneak and brazen Falsehood stride.
He waved a patriot's banner, and he wore
An oak-leaf chapelet begrimed with gore.

And, in the garb of blithe good fellowship, Intemperance raised the goblet to his lip. Hypocrisy, in grave decorous dress, And Bigotry as Conscientiousness, With Zeal, and Cruelty, and many more, The semblance of their kindred virtues bore. But, though the artist's cunning had pourtrayed

Each scene and circumstance in glorious tints,
Yet, 'neath the gaudy arras, could the maid
See, thro' the fissures of a thousand rents,
Rude patches of a rough and squalid wall
Up which the scorpion and the poisonous spider
crawl.

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PART IV.

"The Flesh being proud, Desire doth fight with Grace;
For then it revels; and when that decays,
The guilty rebel for remission prays."

SHAKSPEARE.

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Valdender en 1 mar 1991 Valdender en 1 mar 1992 av 1992 Valdender var en 1994 Valdender var en 1994 Towards the chamber's farther end,

Satan tyrannises over his subjects, and receiveth the homage of their souls.

Where three marble steps ascend To a royal dais high With its gilded canopy. On a throne, for monarch fitting, There that rebel Earl is sitting; Carved is his seat of ebon jet, With heart-shaped blood-stones all beset, And writhed serpents intertwining, Bright fire-spurting emeralds shining With half a sneer In their mock eyes. And half a smile doth Phosphor see His cringing slaves approaching near, Where, midst the ever-shifting dance, Their footsteps stay, That so they may, On bended knee. Their homage pay. See the merry troops advance! Couple after couple tripping, Fingers lily fingers clipping, Lips from warm lips kisses sipping,

Arms with white arms interlacing, Loosing now, and now embracing; Glance with glances interchanging; Some, in wider circuits, ranging Beyond the gay crowd's denser press, With flying foot and streaming tress, And fluttering mantle skimming o'er The slippery wine-bedabbled floor; Now where jest and laugh are mingling With the cup and beaker jingling In the toper's trembling hand; Or where rings the ceaseless rattle Of the dicer's mimic battle. Awhile to gain their breath they stand. Away, away, and they are lost Again among You whirling throng, Whose cymbal-clashing arms, uptost, Beat ever time To the rude rough rhyme Of this frantic strain As it floats along.

(Chorus of Dancers.)

The blithest hour must pass away;
On the merriest night dawns morning gray;
And the song and the dance they cannot stay
Old Time. Tho' strewed with flowers it be,
Along the road still trampeth he;
But what reck we?

(Chorus of Gamesters.)

What care we for to-morrow's curse,
An aching head and a cross-less purse?
For the present moment is never the worse.
Short and soon must our parting be,
And our next gay meeting who shall see?
But what reck we?

(Chorus of Drinkers.)

What care we, tho' the storm winds blow, And the swollen rivers their banks o'erflow, For the shivering fools that homeward go? Midst these mad hours of tipsy glee No thought of home or morrow shall be: Then what reck we?

(Chorus.)

Then hand in hand, and round about,
With hiccough song, and with laughter shout,
We'll dance the merry measure out.
Tho' never again a night we see
Like this from care and sorrow free;
Yet what reck we?

When died away the chorus full,

There came a pause and partial lull

O'er all that revelry;

As hoarse winds, sweeping the forests hoar,

Hush sometime their sullen roar,

And, with stifled sob and sigh,

Hearken to the murmured tale

Of the rain-swollen streamlet's wail.

'Twas then, before the seat of state

On which the rebel Phosphor sate,

By the fitful glare of the torchlight sheen,

The Soul is paralysed by indulgence in sin.

The fair and royal maid was seen, With the silly wight she loved too well. Round Pneuma still there hung, I ween, The glamour of that potent spell. Her haggard look, her listless air, And those blue eyes' lack-lustre stare, Too plainly did they all declare The traitor's art triumphant there. As thus, in dull lethargic mood, Unconsciously the lady stood, Her vest, bestained and journey-worn, From her white shoulders roughly torn, And her long hair of wavy gold Reaching her girdle's silken fold, Save for the cross upon her brow, But little semblance was there now Of one to royal station born.

The Flesh urgeth her to renounce her And now the hour was come that she Must doff that badge of royalty.

The jewel, by her father given,

The token of her princely birth,

From her pale forehead must be riven,

And, as a thing of little worth,

Cast down at that false traitor's feet,

To his fell pride an offering meet.

For Sarx, in drunken folly reeling,

Had forward dragged the passive maid:

And now, at Phosphor's footstool kneeling,

Thus to the smiling Earl he said—

baptismal vows and Christian profession.

- "Lord of this court and kingdom gay,
- " Accept the homage that we pay.
- "We own thy joy-dispensing sway,
- " And in this palace of delight,
- "Through many a jocund day and night,
 - "Would ever dwell.
 - "'Twere vain to tell
- "How gladly, Prince of pleasure, we "Would bid a long, a last farewell
- "To that our old far-off countrie,-

- "That scene of changeless, mirthless thrall,
- "The thoughts of it, I tear them all
 - "From my free mind,
 - "And throw them to the idle wind;
- "Even as from this maiden's brow
- "I pluck the hated emblem now."

He rose, and turned him towards the maid;
His hand was on her jewel laid,
And e'er a moment's space was past
Beneath his feet it had been cast;
When suddenly to Pneuma's ear
There came a distant trumpet-call,
With its sweet echoes rich and clear,
Such as she had been wont to hear

So oft from Castle-Ouran's wall,
Whene'er at twilight hour she strayed
Through heathy slope or pathless glade.
Her royal blood within her woke,
And then reviving memory broke
The trammels o'er her fancy drawn:
As from its lair the couchant fawn,

The Holy
Spirit, by the
memory of
former
teachings,
recalleth her
to conscious
ness and a
sense of her
danger.

Aroused by hound and shrill recheat,
Starts on a sudden to her feet,
But, ere she flies, an instant stays,
And flings a proud inquiring gaze
On her pursuers; Pneuma stood
In her awakened womanhood,
With curling lip, and flashing eye,
And, thrusting back indignantly
The spoiler's hand, her hair she drew
From those flushed cheeks, and fiercely threw
At Phosphor a defiant glance,
Till shrunk his scornful look askance;
Then turned away, and with a cry,
A voice of fear and agony,
Her royal father's name she named,

She showeth resistance against the Spirit of Evil.

As if to one who stood thereby,

And then exclaimed,

" My father, if thy heedless child,

" Forgetful of herself and thee,

" Far from her native home beguiled,

" And doomed to share these orgies wild,

" Must still a captive exile be,

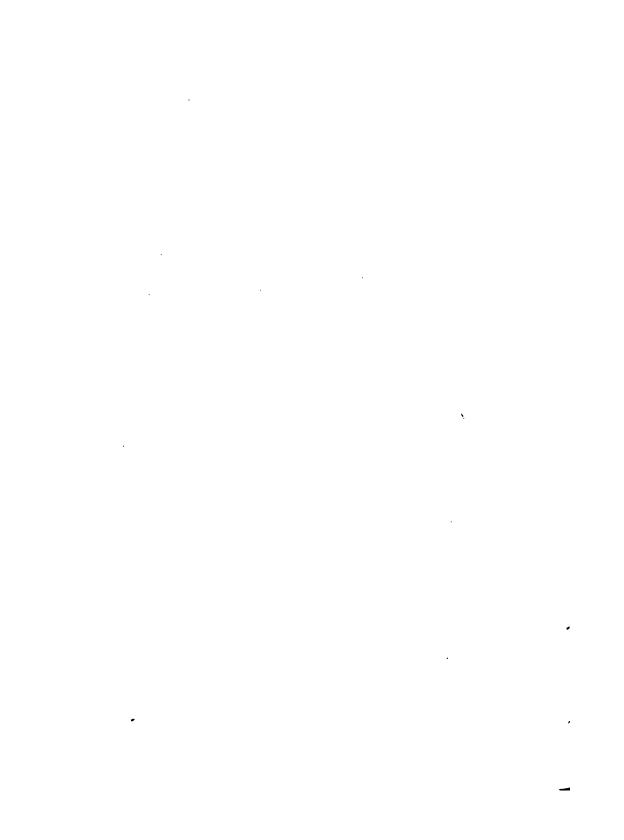
"Yet never, never willingly,

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- " (Though, useless and dishonoured now,
- " It ill befits this shame-flushed brow),
- " Shall traitorous fingers dare remove
- "This dear memorial of thy love."

At the voice of the Holy Ghost speaking through her conscience, the Soul seeth sin all its hideousness.

E'en as she spake, still louder rang The echoes of that trumpet clang, And every blast that trumpet blew Louder yet and louder grew. And the hangings rustled on the wall As it thundered through the lighted hall, As if the roof itself would fall. Then, as it softly died away, The torches shone with a paler ray, And Pneuma raised her eyes, and found A change had come on all around. Those merry, jovial forms were gone, And in each place Was the fleshless face Of a wan and withered skeleton. Sunk were those hazel eyes and blue, Those lips of skin wore a livid hue;



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But still the gibbering phantoms laughed,
And still their blood-red wine they quaffed,
And still the dicer's box they grasped,
And still, with bony fingers, clasped
Each other's bony hands, and high
They footed it right merrily.

That clarion blast
At length 'twas past,
And faint and fainter those wild forms grew,
And there came a mist, like a curtain gray,
Such as, at close of a wintry day,
Shuts all around from the traveller's view.
Then did those hideous spectres melt
In liquid air, and Pneuma felt
A gust of chill wind sweeping by,
With a moan like the Benshee's midnight cry,
When it startles the sleepless watcher's ear;
And all around was dark and drear.
But when her eyes accustomed grew
To that dim vault, the maiden knew
That fled were Phosphor and his crew;

As the pleasures of sin pass away, the Soul is in despair. And she and Sarx were there alone, Pent up in prison walls of stone.

PART V.

"From sin and sorrow set us free,

* * * * * * *

Our frailties help, our vice controul,

Submit the senses to the soul."

IDRYDEN.







And there are crewels of azure blue, Of gold, and crimson, and emerald hue, And this is the task she has to do:

She must wear away

The livelong day,

Embroidering devices gay

To deck the presence-chamber wall Of him who holds her there in thrall.

Sadly she sits on the cold, cold floor,

In murmured accents muttering o'er

The songs she loved in days of yore;

And, as she mutters, higher rise

The tear tides round her drownëd eyes;

And oft and fitfully do sighs

That quivering bosom stir;

But there is one that, her beside, Through the lone hours doth abide,

TT CII

Her fellow prisoner.

A change hath come o'er Sarx, and he His throbbing head upon her knee

De telle al lande and ille l

Resteth, oh! so tranquilly!

Watching, with obedient eye,

But wearieth herself with vain and empty theories. Her slightest, faintest wish to trace In the working of her face. As long as Pneuma wakes and weeps, Ne'er could lady hope to find A page more willing or more kind; But whensoever Pneuma sleeps The younker's wild and frolic brain Revels in elfish pranks again; And to her silken web he creeps, And there, in mischief-working sport, He loves to pluck away and tear Foliage, fruit, and figures fair, By Pneuma's weary fingers wrought; Whilst she in dreamy slumbers lies Till morning rouses toil and thought; Then from her pallet doth she rise, And with her tear-beclouded eyes Her never-ending task she plies.

The Flesh is obedient to the Spirit.

Through the night and through the day, Heavily wore the hours away; Through the day and through the night, Little there was of life and light To gladden the weary captive's sight. Little there was of light and love Till a sunbeam stole through the grate above, As if it struggled in to dry The sorrow-dew in the maiden's eye. And with it came the melody Of mellow harp strains, rich and clear, And a voice that fell upon her ear As a dream of home, in his feverish rest, Comes to the toil-worn exile's breast, With faces and scenes he used to know, And the smiles and words of long ago. Through the dungeon vault it rang, And thus the unseen minstrel sang: -

The Holy Spirit suggests to the Soul her return to peace and innocence.

- " Offspring of Ouran's King,
- "Why art thou lingering
- " Here, in thy durance of darkness and woe?

- " Open before thee lies
- "Thy homeward path. Arise,
- " Lift up thy weeping eyes:
 - " Is it not so?
- " Birdling and wild bee sing;
- "Bloometh each leafëd thing;
- "Bright sunbeams dance o'er the streams as they flow;
 - " Softly the fragrant air
 - "Steals to thy bosom bare;
 - "Welcome its sweet kiss there:
 - " Is it not so?
 - " Eyes will, unwearied, still
 - " Watch thee from Ouran's hill,
- " Treading the long road by which thou must go;
 - " Champion true hast thou one:
 - " He is King Æon's Son;
 - "Other aid need'st thou none:
 - " Is it not so?



- "He bore thee love of yore,
- "Love than a brother's more;
- " He bled to rescue thee from thy worst foe.
 - " See, see, to set thee free
 - " At the door waiteth He,
 - "Thy guard and guide to be:

" Is it not so?"

The Soul catcheth a glimpse of Heaven, and breaketh forth from her state of despondency.

Ere ceased the strain had Pneuma raised Her glistening eyes, and round her gazed; And then she saw, through the open door, The sunlight lit up the dungeon floor; She felt the breath of the freshening breeze, She caught a glimpse of turf and trees, And well the distant towers she knew, Over the hills in the far-off blue.

The sun shone in on the prison floor.

With thrilling heart upon the hand
Of Sarx she seized,—a moment more
And they have crossed the threshold o'er,
And free beneath the bright sky stand.



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'Twas then the Princess was aware Of one that stood beside her there,— Of one that, for an instant's space, Gazed down and smiled into her face With a mild look of brother's love That never from her memory fled, Then doffed His mantle, and above Her stained and tattered garments spread That vesture white as virgin snow; And as He raised her, when she knelt In grateful homage, Pneuma felt His lips impressed upon her brow. He pointed to the narrow road That led to Ouran's glad abode, And said, "Though rough, it must be trod,"-And He was gone; but in her ear Shall long be heard His parting word, " Although unseen, yet ever near."

She recogniseth her Redeemer, who clotheth her with the robe of His righteousness.

He promiseth His preventing grace.

Nor lingered she, nor backward cast A single look, but hurried fast, With trembling steps, till they were past She leadeth the Flesh away from the regions of sin.

Adown the rugged, clayey mound On which that gloomy dungeon stood, And onward, where the pathway wound Through furze and tangled underwood. And still, as Sarx would lag behind, Her arm with his she intertwined, And urged him, with entreaties kind, Along the rough and stony way Through the vale below that lay. Paused they not, nor looked around, But reached the upward rising ground. Then clomb they, with a right good will, The heathy rampart of the hill, Till on the upmost table-land The breathless, panting travellers stand: And, on a hillock's grassy crest, Their weary limbs awhile they rest.

The Fountain of Hope.

A seat it was that had been made Beneath a bushlet's partial shade; And, in its leafy neighbourhood, A quaint and ancient fountain stood. A mouldering arch of fretted stone,
With moss and lichen overgrown,
The basin spanned of ample brim;
The limpid water o'er the rim
In silver tinkling drops down dripped,
And, in a violet-fringëd rill,
Threaded the sloping of the hill.

Birds on the margent twittering sipped;
Bright insects, skimming o'er it, dipped
Their wings of azure green and gold;
And many a floating odour told
Of unseen flowers, blooming nigh.
And there, to catch the passer's eye,
Was carved, upon the spandril old,
King Æon's crest and cognizance,—

A crowned cross with "Espérance." Beneath, this legend was enscrolled,—

- " Stranger, these waters only flow
- " For such as on their journey go:
- "To cheer the weary meant were they,
- " And speed his footsteps, -not delay."

Sherevieweth the sad condition of her former associates. And now the trembling Pneuma took
A hurried and a backward look
At that dark hold and fastness dread
From which she had so lately fled.
Where, in the gloomy vale, it lay
Wrapped in a shroud of misty gray,
In broken, rambling outline, shone
Buttress and wall of dusky stone,
Low-roofed and turretless. There gleamed,
Through the dull fog, one ray alone,
That from the upland sunshine streamed
On the low postern lancet-shaped,
Through which the maiden had escaped.

Was it her fancy when she thought
The fitful breeze wild echoes brought
Of boisterous wassailing? Those strains
Were mingled with the wailful moan
Of captives toiling in their chains;
And Pneuma heard these words alone,
Like the low, continuous dirge
Chanted by a far-off surge,





Upon some rocky shoal wind-tost, "For ever and for ever lost." Sadly it fell upon her ear; And, with a shudder and a tear, She hath risen from her seat. But ere again, with eager feet, She treads her onward path, the maid A moment by that fountain stayed. The bowl, that, hanging by the side, A rustic drinking cup supplied, She takes, and in the basin dips, To cool her blanched and parchëd lips. — Oh! 'twas a glorious sight to see, On the farthest verge of the distance gray Were the sunny hills of Ouranie; And her father's towers, there were they. Well may the lady rise and say, "No time to loiter, Sarx! Away!"

She is refreshed by the waters of Hope.

Never did sunshine light up a view Fairer than that before their eyes; The happiness of the Christian in the first hours of his repentant course.

Never did heaven show deeper blue

Than canopied over those cloudless skies:
And still, as their onward course they bore,
Through lane, and hamlet, and over the moor,
They passed by many a gladsome scene,
And they listened to many a joyous sound,
The mirthful shout from the village green,
The cheerful yelp of the ranging hound,
The rooks' hoarse caw from the elm top high,
The barn-door soldan's trumpet shrill,
The bird-boys' wild, prolongëd cry,
And the purr of the distant water-mill.

They stayed not at hall, or at cottage door,
But on through hamlet, and lane, and moor
They pressed; nor slacked their steps, before
The western clouds were mantled o'er
With sunset's crimson curtains. Then
They reached a brown, umbrageous glen,
Where, in an ancient hermitage,
There dwelt a venerable sage.

In the time of gloom the Soul seeketh ghostly counsel.

In rugged garb, within the door, The old man, sitting, seemed to pore Upon a brazen-claspëd tome.

But when approaching steps he heard, Rising, with many a courteous word He welcomed them to his poor home, And spread before the weary pair His rough but hospitable fare. The meal concluded, on a bed Of withered leaves and fern bespread, Slumbered the youth at Pneuma's feet. Then, in a low soft voice and sweet, With grave discourse, the reverend man To entertain his guest began.

He told her, how her homeward way
Through many an unseen danger lay,
How easily her feet might stray,
How secret foes lurked round about;
And though he bade her never doubt
But watched she was, and guarded too,
By that fraternal Champion true,

She is warned and advised. Yet if, in heedless hour misled,

She is reminded of the aid to be obtained from the Holy Scrip-

Some devious footpath she should tread, Then had she cause indeed to fear Such aid would be no longer near. Anon the old man, from a nook, An antique jewelled casket took, With many an orient gem beset, And bade her on the relic look. Nor for the first time then it met The maiden's gaze; she recognised A gift (in other days how prized!) From that dear dame, whose fostering care It had been hers with Sarx to share; And Sarx the treasured pledge had borne Till on that sad and luckless morn When it was idly thrown aside, Or dropped amidst their reckless ride. As Pneuma joyfully again The casket clasped, the hermit 'gan In gentle accents to explain How that a wondrous talisman Within that little coffer shone; And those, that rightly gazed thereon,





A hand of flame therein might spy,
That pointed ever truthfully
Towards Castle-Ouran's distant towers.
"At night, in doubtful paths, the maid
"By this might guide her steps," he said.
Thus passed in talk the sunless hours;
But when the silvery dawn-light broke
O'er the far hill-tops, Sarx awoke
At Pneuma's call, and forth they wend,
Whilst after them their aged friend
Doth kindly words and blessings send.

A bootless task it were to tell
Of valley, stream, and mountain crost,
And all the dangers that befel
That fair and royal damoiselle;
Of footpath in the woodland lost,
Of drifting rain and chilly blast,
Of darksome hours unsheltered past,
Of perils in the forest lone,
Perils to Pneuma never known,

The toils and difficulties of the heaven-ward journey.

From which, by arm and shield unseen, Full often had she rescued been. At length she trod, one noon of day, Along the rugged, sultry way; Faintly her languid pulses beat, The hot wind on her forehead played, And faltered oft her wayworn feet, Whilst vainly longed the weary maid For road-side rill and hedge-row shade. Alone she was; Sarx, silly wight, Lured from her side by trifles light, To mock the cuckoo's note would stay, Or through the sunny meadows stray, With panting breast and laughing eye, Chasing the painted butterfly. But now, his strength and courage flagging, The loiterer is behind her lagging. And, as upon a mossy stone The lady sitteth there alone, Thus maketh she her secret moan:

The frailty of the Flesh a hindrance to the Soul.

- "Beloved home! with heart-sick sigh
- "To thee I turn my tearful eye,
- "Through daisied mead, through dreary waste,
- "Thro' wood and fell to thee I haste.
- "Yet oft my trembling step must stay,
- "And oft my onward course delay,
- "Whilst he whose lot still blends with mine,
 - "Whom whilst I chide I yet must love,
- "Where'er his truant thoughts incline,
 - "Far from our path will idly rove,
- " Nor give one passing thought to me,
- "Nor, my beloved home, to thee.
- " The netted dove that doth espy
- " Her dear nest in the fir-top high,
- " How do her quivering pinions strive
- "Her meshy prison bounds to rive!
 - "Thus, thus, I strain, but all in vain,
 - " To reach thy peaceful shades again.
- " My Sire's behest, the memories
- " Of early years, affection's ties,
 - "These be the links of that strong chain
- " That bindeth still my future fate
- "With this, my uncongenial mate.

She grieveth over the same.

She mourneth over her bondage to the Flesh.

- "When can I ever hope for peace?
- "When will this toilsome journey cease?
- " And throbbing brow and bosom be
- "At rest, belovëd home, in thee?"

She paused. An unseen harp forth rings
Its solemn chords,

And hark! the unseen minstrel sings
These mystic words:—

But the Holy Ghost teacheth her their mutual relation.

- But the Holy " It was a sun-ray, a golden glowing sun-ray,
 - "Glided down and kissed a lowly sod of earth.
 - " All through the summer day,
 - " That beam of heavenly birth,
 - " Bright and ethereal,
 - " Pure and immaterial,
 - "On the pulseless bosom lay
 - " Of the cold, dull, clod of clay.
 - " Deem not, bright sunbeam, child of the effulgent sky,
 - "Unprized, unheeded, is thy fond caress.



- " From the turf, by and by,
 - "Where thy lips love to press,
 - " Fair flowers shall heavenward spring,
 - " Ceaselessly scattering
- " To the winds, far and nigh,
- " Odours that ne'er shall die."

A long sweet cadence closed the strain,
And a smile is in the lady's eyes,
And kind words come, in lieu of sighs,
For Sarx is by her side again.
One fond, half-chiding, short caress,
And on their homeward road they press.

And now a babbling stream beside

Their pathway ran; as 'neath the shade
Of drooping boughs the waters glide,
Sweetly the tinkling pebbles made
Low lullaby-like music; oft
Some little trembling ripple, flying

Beside the course of outward life runneth the Ideal.

From the frolic wind's embrace,
Upleapt into its nestling place,
In the bosom, white and soft,
Of the water-lily, lying
Drifted on the mossy verge.
As the pair their journey urge,
Sometimes lingering on their way
To watch the running wag-tails play
By the violet-tufted marge,
At length they reach a spot where lay

At length they reach a spot where lay, Close moored within a tiny bay,

A little silken-sailëd barge;

And, on the painted prow of it,

Pneuma saw this legend writ: -

- "Ycleppëd am I 'Reverie;'
- " He that doth embark in me,
 - " As he lapseth down this stream,
- " Many a lovely sight shall see:
 - "Wondrous visions, that shall seem
 - " Bright as brightest fairie dream."

- "How well it were," the Princess cried,
- " Down dropping with the gentle tide,
- "In this fair pinnace, at our ease,
- "Whilst swells its sail the fitful breeze,
- " Drifting our homeward road beside,
- "Unworn by travel-toil, to float,
- " Till reach we yonder tower-crowned shore,
- "Where all our wanderings shall be o'er."

Few moments passed. The fragile boat Through the mid-river cleaves its way.

Its dancing prow
The stream doth plough,
On either bow

Throwing a tuft of silvery spray.

And by the helm that lady lay,
Watching, with her wistful eye,
The shadowy scenes they glided by.
Whilst, lolling opposite the maid,
Sarx, dabbling with the wavelets played,
And oft, with outstretched arm, essayed

The Soul proposeth to lead an in-active life of contemplation.

She considereth the history of the past while the Flesh is amused by trifles.

To catch each passing prize he saw, The wind-tossed leaf, or floating straw.

On, on she sails; before her eyes, In picture-like succession, rise A thousand dreamy fantasies.

The Soul is absorbed in contemplating the arts of civilised life.

On, on she sails:

The stream no longer flows

By turfy banks, and under pendant trees;

But, looking down

Upon the broadened flood

A vast and many-gabled town

In beauty stood.

Along its crowded quays

The tall masts rose
Of many a gallant barque.
And towered, higher
Than masts and glittering vanes, a mark
For far-off mariners,— the fretted spire

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Of a huge minster; whilst thereout The chiming sweet Of swinging bells roused round about The gladsome echoes. Every street, Down sloping to the tide, was rife With all the stir and throng Of busy, art-enrichëd life. And still, as Pneuma sailed along, In that frail schallop lying, Through water-gate and open casement she Could dimly see King-honoured painters, in rich studios plying Their world-bewitching craft. Beneath The chisel stroke Ensculptured beauty woke, And almost seemed to breathe. Whilst stole the voice of song From terrace and from turret high, With sweet accordant minstrelsie.

The age of Chivalry. On, on they sailed:

Hard by the river side,

Within a listed field, Begirt with all the pride

Of bannered heraldry, were held

High joust and tourney bold.

Stout champions, steel encased,

With rested lance,

To win bright glance

From beauty's eye,

The shock of mimic combat faced.

Thereby,

From forth a moated gateway old,

Rode martial bands:

Faint was the distant trumpet sound,

As the glittering files upwound,

Where beleaguering hosts surround

The Holy City; — there she stands,

The reverenced of many lands,

Dazzling white,

In the hot sunlight,

Shone tower, and dome, and minaret,

Cresting the olive-mantled slope;

And, at that sight,

The foremost crowd
Of pilgrim soldiers bowed
Their heads; whilst every cheek was wet
With tears. Amidst those ranks were seen
The knightly jupon, and the priestly cope,
The palmer's cowl, and yeoman's gabardine;
And with fierce war-cry, and proud chieftain's
name,

The chanted prayer and holy anthem came.

On, on she sailed:

With vineyard flanked and cork-tree wood
A gorgeous Paynim palace stood.
Through many a glittering avenue
Of horse-shoe arches, lightly springing
From slender-gilded columns, shone,
Bedight with crimson, gold, and blue,
The inner courts of painted stone;
Where, mingled with the clash
Of brazen timbrels, and the singing
Of dancing maidens, and the ringing
Of silver-anklet bells, the plash

The Saracenic period. Of sparkling fountains, sprinkling o'er
The central, many-marbled floor,
Cushioned there, in Eastern state,
Emir and Alcadi sate.
Whilst rose above
Those flower-decked bowers
Of idle luxury and love,
The studious towers
Where, each secluded in his cell,
Rabbi and alchymist might dwell,
Intent to pore
O'er ancient lore,
And search through weary hours
For Nature's hidden spell.

Inroads of the Northern nations. On, on she sailed:

With torch and sword

A northern horde

Of fierce barbarians broke

Through the corpse-encumbered breach
In an ancient city's wall.





Lowered o'er all

A lurid pall

Of fire-flake-spangled smoke,

Through which the flames, as roof and rafter fall,

Of theatre, house, and forum hall,

Shoot up, and seem to reach

The coppery sky.

Through street and market-place

Men, women, shrieking children, fly.

Some few, indeed, are there,

The best of a degenerate race,

Who, maddened by despair,

Still stand at bay, and dare

The foeman face to face,

And on their marble thresholds die.

Whilst rose on high,

Midst groan and battle cry,

The fearful litany

Of virgin, priest, and grandsire gray,

As with Kyrie Eleison loud

To altar, cross, and shrine they crowd,

In holy crypt, and rich basilica.

The barque glides on:

And Pneuma sees no more

Havoc, and rapine, and remorseless slaughter,

Chasing their prey along the shadowy shore

Of that deep-flowing stream, whose water,

Reflected on its surface bore

The ripple-broken shade

Of sculptured pediment, and dome,

Crowning pilastered wall, and colonnade,

And massy gate, and trophied arch,

'Neath which triumphant march

The victor warriors of Imperial Rome.

And still, as Pneuma onward floated,

Fell harshly on her ear

The clamour loud

Of the tumultuous crowd,

That, thronging to the upmost tier,

Circus, and amphitheatre high,

Upon their bloody pastime gloated,

Of hireling strife, and mortal agony.

Roman Empire.

The philosophy and

poetry of Greece.

On, on she sailed:

At length were past

Column, and aqueduct, and portico;

And the down-sinking day

Mild radiance cast

On quiet olive groves. The amber glow

Of the sun's farewell ray

Lit up the thoughtful features and broad brow

Of many a sage, within those still glades walking.

Amidst grave groups, in lofty converse talking,

Strayed old enraptured bards whose hands

Struck music from their harp-strings, as they

sang

The never-dying strains that rang Of old throughout all ages and all lands.

And at the sound

Of those sweet voices, airy shapes Trooped all around,

From leafy glen, sward-mantled mount, And where,

Forth gushing from its woodland fount,
The laughing stream escapes
Into the free fresh air.

Responsive to the song,

Fauns, nymphs, and dryads throng,

And flit the fancy-peopled meads along.

The ancient monarchies.

On, on the lady sailed—the stream

Dim lighted by the twilight gleam,

Till saw she on the lessened banks,

Looming in long, gray, solemn ranks,

Huge granite monsters, whose wide wings

Flanked massive temple walls,

And lofty-gated halls,

Wrought with strange shapes and nameless
things.

And issuing out, and passing through
Each idol-guarded avenue,
Rode tall, majestic, bearded kings,
Accoutred nobly for the chase,
Or from fierce war
Dragging long captive trains, to grace
The victor's car.

Still onward gliding, Pneuma traces The calm and unimpassioned faces Of vast colossal Sphynxes, gazing, With cold stone eyes, upon the rude And naked multitude. Laboriously upraising Tall obelisk and pyramid. Beyond, the low, flat shore was hid By the dark vapours of the night, As a wide, boundless sea; but soon, Rending her cloudy veil, the moon Poured down a shower of sheeny light Over the sapling cedars, and green slopes, And wide unpeopled vales below, Unpeopled save for few far-scattered groups Of wand'ring shepherds' tents, that show Where, over family and fold, The hoary Patriarchs mild dominion hold. The Soul entereth upon the investigation of physical phenomena.

Still sailed she on:

And, one by one,

The stars forth shone,

As if they came to look upon

Her lonely voyage. - Beneath their light

Burst suddenly to sight

A thousand living things;

As if awakened from their lair,

The voice of beasts was everywhere;

The sound of flapping wings

Was in the air;

The waters seem

To teem,

'Till overfraught and rife

With reptile life.

And Pneuma sees aghast

The Saurians vast,

Down in the deep below,

In intercrawling sport and strife,

Flinging, from gnashing jaws and lashing tail,

Behind them as they go,

A livid trail

Of light electrical.

As the affrighted maid

Her vessel small

In vain essayed,

With helm distort, to guide

Shoreward athwart the tide,

High overhead

The sky grows red
With bright volcanic flashes;

For the mountains, that stand

In the far inland,

Are vomiting fire and ashes:

And the innermost heart

Of the granite rocks

Is rent apart

By the earthquake shocks;

And, bubbling up from the boiling mine,

Lava and molten metal shine,

Sweeping down with roar and hiss

Over the hill side precipice,

And thence, unseen

Thro' the deep ravine,

Winding until they burst again

Over the scorched and buried plain,

And wrapping forest, and field, and stream
In a pall of flame, and smoke, and steam;
'Till, in huge volumes upward curling,
The vapoury columns mix above,
Where the great rounded planets, whirling
In their far-stretching orbits move.

And all around

Earth, sky, and fire

Are mingled in convulsion dire.

Then by the side

Of Pneuma's boat,

On the troubled tide,

Was seen to float

A long, low, dark,

And shadowy bark,

Manned by ghastly forms;—and hark!

The jib, and jeer,

The muttered sneer,

And laughter-yell,

That pierces through

The maiden's ear,-

She knows full well

They come from Phosphor and his crew.

She encountereth philosophical scepticism.





The moon, the stars, no longer shone,
The glare of crater fires was gone.
One gentle flickering ray alone,
As from a far-off beacon flame,
Over a darkened ocean came.
And as that phantom stranger-sail
The glittering watery light-path crossed,
There rose the well-remembered wail,—
"For ever and for ever lost."

Then void was all the dreary night,

Save the glare of that far-off light

Streaking the waste of water;

But how can Pneuma tell it from one

Of the wild, false meteors she must shun!

In this the height of her distress,

Amidst her dread and doubtfulness,

'Twas then that she bethought her,

Her casket's talismanic power

Might haply guide her in that hour.

She raised the lid—and not in vain—

In doubt and despair the Soul turns to Holy Writ,

The shining hand she sees again -

and is directed to the

ordinances of the Church.

She grasps the helm—the sail she trims— The little vessel scudding skims

The leeward main,

And, as the friendly shore they near,

How doth the maiden joy to hear, In fitful peals, the well-known chimes

Of happier and of earlier times

Borne wildly on the gusty wind!

How doth the maiden joy to find The beacon clear, towards which they steer,

Shines from the windows of her dear,

Her own, her childhood's home, that nigh

The billow-beaten headland high

Loomed dimly 'gainst the midnight sky.

Then Sarx at length uprouseth she

From forth his listless apathy;

And as they reach

The craggy beach,

There is a voice whose kindly word

Above the booming surge is heard,

There is a welcome-smile of love,

There is a hand held forth above:



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Her Champion and Deliverer,
'Tis he! 'tis he looks down on her!
The bark is shivered on the strand,
But not before that princely hand
Hath drawn the wanderers safe to land.

The white spray, driven from the surf, Far inland sprinkles tree and turf; Whilst Pneuma on her way is wending, Along the rugged path ascending, And oft a helping hand extending To the drenched and frighted Sarx. A Brother's loving arm sustains Her weary form, until she gains The ridge-way of the upland plains. The song of new-awakened larks, The gladsome light of silvery streaks, Where, o'er the hills, the day-dawn breaks, The breath of opening flowers flinging Their morning perfumes o'er her way, Oh! what to Pneuma's heart are they To that full burst of sweetest singing,

The Soul, received by the Saviour, bringeth back the Flesh to the guardianship of the Church.

The Church rejoiceth over the repentant sinner. Forth from the well-known porch that came,
As issued thence the Ancient Dame,
With generous food and cordials laden,
To cheer the youth and heart-faint maiden!
And fondly thus her virgin train
Rejoiced at their return again:

- "At morn, at noon, at eve-tide too,
- "How have we looked and longed for you!
- "We longed to hear the foot-fall dear,
- " And the warbling voice so richly clear;
- "And oh! we longed again to spy
- "The sparkle of that mirthful eye:
- "Then, whence soever ye may come,
- "Wandering loved ones, welcome home!
- "Fear not here the traitor's smile;
- " Lurketh here nor hate nor guile;
- "The summer ray may pass away,
- "But, sheltered through the wintry day,

- "Beneath our roof-tree ye may bide,
- "Though frost without and storm betide:
- "Then, whence soever ye may come,
- "Wandering dear ones, welcome home."

Th' autumnal sun had smiled farewell
To valley, and river, green dingle, and dell,
But the parting day-beam lingered still
To kiss the slope of the purple hill,
And over the saffron stubble cast
Long shadow-streaks from the standing

'Twas when its warmest glance, and last,
Was gilding afresh the red vine-leaves,
And lighting up with a richer glow
The ripe grape-clusters hung below;
When silence had fallen on bird and flower,
And all was hushed round Pneuma's bower,
Save the low silvery notes that rang
From the lady's lute, as she softly sang

sheaves.

The approach of the hour of dissolution. To Sarx; and smilingly he bound
Rose branch and straggling tendril round
The boughs of the low acacia tree,
That formed her sylvan canopy:
'Twas then King Æon's heralds brought
The summons to her Father's court.

The struggle of death.

It was a thing to melt the heart
To see those fond companions part.
Full long it was ere she could stir
From the spot where Sarx still clung to her;
And still he kissed her o'er and o'er,
As he should never see her more;
And often, as adieu she said,
Again he clasped and kissed the maid.
Then, as she tore herself away,
And, sobbing, whispered her farewell,
Into a swoon the stripling fell;

The Flesh is committed to earth, and the Soul in its disembodied state awaiteth their reunion at the resurrection.

And, sobbing, whispered her farew
Into a swoon the stripling fell;
And whilst entrancëd there he lay
Outstretched upon the flowery sod,
Up Castle-Ouran's mount she trod,
And entered at the outer gate,
There in the barbican to wait
Till ushered to the Hall of State.





And ever as she passed along, Begirdled with a courtly throng, They greeted her with harp and song.

- "After weary travel-toil,
- " After storm and wild turmoil,
- " After strife and battle broil,
 - "Then cometh rest.
- " A gladsome life awaiteth thee,
- "Where, far from doubt and sorrow free,
- "Thy quiet sheltering place shall be "A Father's breast.
- "Freer, happier than ere now,
- "Through long tearless days shalt thou
- "Wear no care upon thy brow,
 - "Beside His throne.
- "Never more to be deceived,
- "Never more to be aggrieved,
- "Every hope and wish achieved: -
 - " Nor thou alone!

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- "He that, for awhile forsaken,
- "Sleepeth now, will soon awaken;
- "From his form the spell be taken,
 - " And at thy side,
- "His faults, his follies, purged away,
- "In shape as beauteous as the day,
- "Thy wedded consort, he shall aye "With thee abide.
- "For thy trial all the surer,
- "Never home could be securer,
- " Never happiness be purer,
 - "Nor thou more blest.
- "After weary travel-toil,
- "After storm and wild turmoil,
- "After strife and battle broil,
 - "Then cometh rest."

THE END.

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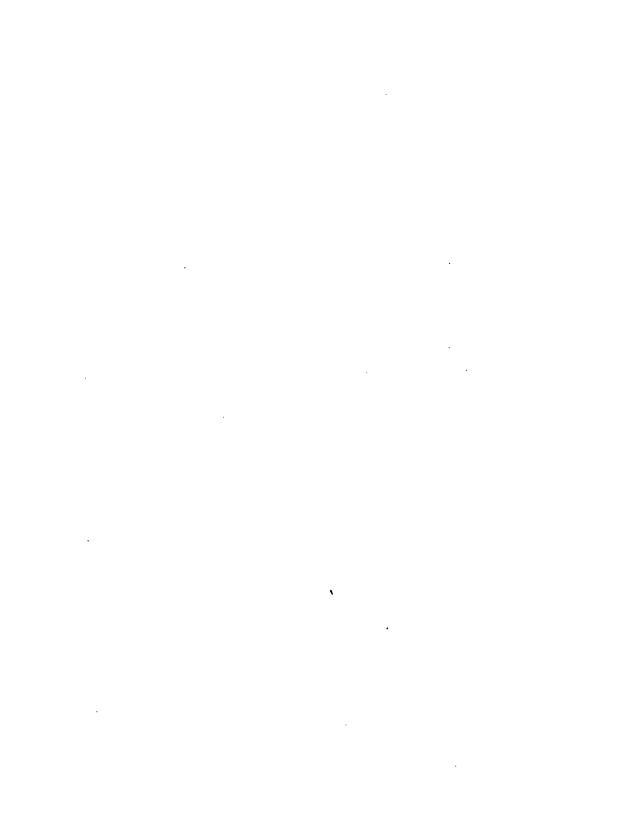
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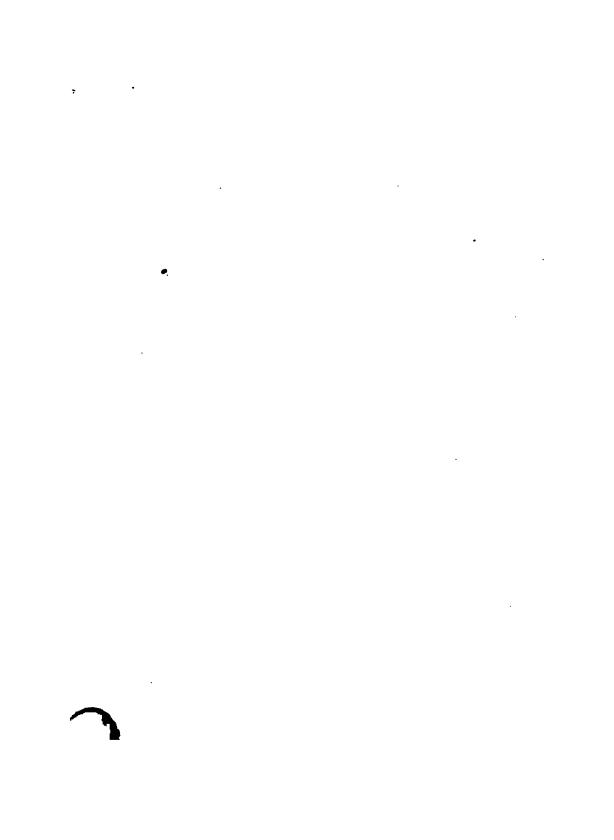
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